

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Original): Steel alloy characterized in having the following composition (in % by weight)

C	0,40–0,60
Si	0,1–1,0
Mn	0,3–1,0
Cr	12–15
Mo	2,5–4,0
Ni	0–1,0
Co	0–4,0
N	0,15–0,20,

with the balance Fe as well as normally occurring impurities, the hardness being > 56 HRC, which should be possible to be attained by hardening without deep freezing, as well as PRE > 25, defined as $PRE = \% Cr + 3,3 \cdot \% Mo + 16 \cdot \% N$.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim 1, wherein C = ~~0,42–0,60~~, preferably ~~0,42–0,50~~ 0.42-0.60 % by weight.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein Si = ~~0,15–0,80~~, preferably ~~0,15–0,55~~ 0.15-0.80 % by weight.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1–3~~, wherein Mn = ~~0,4–0,8~~, preferably ~~0,4–0,7~~ 0.4-0.8 % by weight.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein Cr = 13–15, preferably ~~14–15~~ % by weight.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein Mo = ~~2,6–4,0~~, preferably ~~2,6–3,0~~ 2.6-4.0 % by weight.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Steel alloy according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims, wherein the steel alloy comprising comprises~~ carbides, nitrides and/or carbonitrides, wherein the a maximal diameter of the carbides, nitrides and/or carbonitrides does not exceed 5 μm .

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Knife, ~~such as a knife suitable for the food industry, carving knife and the like, characterized in that it comprises a~~ comprising the steel alloy according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-7~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Cutting edges for either dry or wet shaving, ~~characterized in that they comprise a~~ comprising the steel alloy according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-7~~.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Cutting tool for surgical applications, ~~such as for instance a scalpel, characterized in that it comprises a~~ comprising the steel alloy according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-7~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Doctor blade or creping blade, ~~characterized in that it comprises a~~ comprising the steel alloy according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-7~~.

Claim 12 (New): Steel alloy according to claim 2, wherein $C = 0.42-0.50$ % by weight.

Claim 13 (New): Steel alloy according to claim 3, wherein $Si = 0.15-0.55$ % by weight.

Claim 14 (New): Steel alloy according to claim 4, wherein $Mn = 0.4-0.7$ % by weight.

Claim 15 (New): Steel alloy according to claim 5, wherein $Cr = 14-15$ % by weight.

Claim 16 (New): Steel alloy according to claim 6, wherein $Mo = 2.6-3.0$ % by weight.

Claim 17 (New): A steel alloy, comprising:

a composition including (in % by weight):

C 0.40–0.60

Si 0.1–1.0

Mn 0.3–1.0

Cr 12–15

Mo 2.5–4.0

Ni 0–1.0

Co 0–4.0

N 0.15–0.20

balance Fe as well as normally occurring impurities;

a hardness > 56 HRC; and

a value for PRE > 25, wherein $PRE = \% Cr + 3.3 \cdot \% Mo + 16 \cdot \% N$.

Claim 18 (New): The steel alloy of claim 17, wherein the hardness is attained by hardening without deep freezing.